



CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

SEPTEMBER 2004 AGENDA

☒ Federal Waiver

SUBJECT

Request by **Tulare City Elementary School District** to waive No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB); Title IV, Part A, Section 4115 (a)(1)(c) to use -Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities funds to support the cost of **Discover Skills for Life**, a curriculum for kindergarten through grade eight students.

Waiver Number: Fed-08-2004

☒ Action

☒ Consent

RECOMMENDATION

☐ Approval ☒ Approval with conditions ☐ Denial

The district must submit a report to the Safe and Healthy Kids Program Office (SHKPO) no later than September 2005 describing the progress made to evaluate the effectiveness of Discover Skills for Life. The district must submit a report to SHKPO no later than September 2006 describing the final results of the evaluation. The district agrees to submit the evaluation results to the California Healthy Kids Resource Center (CHKRC), to the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP), and to the University of Colorado's Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence, for possible designation as a Validated Program, Model, or Blueprint. The district must also evaluate its own comprehensive prevention program in accordance with the district's approved Local Educational Agency Plan.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION DISCUSSION AND ACTION

State Board Policy 03-01 contains guidelines for approval of applications for waiver of the NCLB requirements that Title IV funds be used for "science-based" prevention programs. The State Board of Education has already approved similar waiver requests for other programs.

SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

This application requests a waiver so that the local educational agency may use Discover Skills for Life rather than a "science-based" program. Per State Board Policy 03-01, there are three conditions which must be satisfied before approval of the use of a "promising" prevention program rather than an already-established science-based program. Those conditions were met, and are listed in bold below.

Is the Program Innovative?

Yes. The program is classroom curriculum that includes lessons to build self-esteem, decision-making and relationship skills, violence prevention skills, and other skills and information to prevent and reduce drug, alcohol, and tobacco use.

Does the program demonstrate substantial likelihood of success?

Yes. Evaluation studies have been conducted showing favorable results. For example, researchers in Dallas, Texas, recently completed an extensive study of the Discover Skills for Life curriculum focusing on the elementary grades. Significant changes in attitudes and behavior occurred over the two-year period of the study.

Is there a plan and timeline for submitting the program for review and

recognition? Yes. The additional material submitted by the school district includes a satisfactory plan and timeline. The district has agreed to send a progress report within one year, and a final report within two years.

Authority for Waiver: NCLB, Title IV, Part A, Section 4115(a)(3)

Period of request: September 2004 to September 2006.

Local board approval date(s): 5-25-04

FISCAL ANALYSIS (AS APPROPRIATE)

Programmatic change – no fiscal impact.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Consent Item: Backup materials, waiver request forms and supporting documents are not available for web viewing but are available for inspection in the Waiver Office.